

Minutes of the Blue Ribbon Panel for Transportation Funding

Meeting #7

August 21, 2008

8:30 am-10:15 am

Department of Administration – Conference Room A

Members Present: Michael P. Lewis, RIDOT, Co-Chair
Lloyd Albert, AAA
Robert Weygand, URI
Gary Sasse, Dept. of Revenue
John Simmons, RIPEC
Peter Osborn, FHWA

Member Absent: Jerome Williams, Dept. of Administration, Co-Chair; Robert Cusack, Preferred Asset Management LLC; Keith Stokes, Newport Chamber of Commerce; John Gregory, Northern RI Chamber of Commerce; William Sequino, Town Manager, East Greenwich

Staff: Bill Fazioli, Robert Shawver, Kazem Farhoumand

In Attendance: Heidi Cote, Bruce Landis, Carmela Corte, Farhad Atash, Paul L. Dion, Henry Schwarzbach, Deborah Rosen, Mark Therrien, Christopher Long, Barry Schiller, Dana Alexander Nolfé, Bernie Frezza, Katherine Trapani, Jonathan L. Harris, Jennifer Harris, Douglas N. Hales, and John Flaherty.

August 7, 2008 Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the August 7, 2008 meeting were approved without revision.

Public Meetings

Director Lewis addressed the public outreach hearings suggesting that the presentation material will not be ready for hearings the second week of September. He recommended to the Panel that two meetings during both the 3rd and 4th week of September. The panel generally seemed to go along with that suggestion.

Mr. Lewis advised the Panel that the draft power point presentation for the meetings would be posted on the Blue Ribbon Panel website for the Panel members review and comment.

Options for Funding

Henry Schwarzbach presented the interactive model showing the potential returns from the various funding options presented at an earlier meeting. Discussion ensued on each of the various options. Rating the options was deferred until future meetings held after the public meetings were held.

Other Discussion

Panel members noted that the revenues presented from all of the options would fall far short of filling the funding gap identified by RIDOT. It was suggested that emphasis should be given to reducing the funding gap through improving the efficiency of project delivery.

Next Meeting

The next Panel meeting will be held on September 4th at 8:30 AM at the same location.